

TVA is updating the 2011 Natural Resource Plan (NRP), which contained six Resource Areas centered on stewardship activities. The 2020 NRP has been expanded to include ten proposed Focus Areas that tell a comprehensive story of TVA's work in natural resources. The NRP is a strategic document that, over the next 15 to 20 years, will guide the direction of TVA's resource stewardship on the 11,000 miles of shoreline and 293,000 acres of public land under its care. Recreation is one of the ten proposed Focus Areas.

From its creation in 1933, TVA's earliest leaders understood that as the lands around its reservoirs were developed, recreation would become a direct link to the social and economic advancement of the surrounding communities. As part of its mission of service, TVA manages its public land and waters to support recreation so that the Tennessee Valley remains one of the best places to live, work, and play. From a primitive hiking trail to a fully developed commercial campground, TVA strives to balance the resources under its care while providing recreational opportunities for everyone.

TVA manages approximately 650,000 acres of reservoir water surface area and 293,000 acres of land for recreation and other purposes. Many of TVA's developed recreation areas, such as campgrounds and marinas, are managed by commercial and public operators who specialize in the recreation business. However, the majority of TVA land is set aside for dispersed recreation such as hunting and hiking.

In addition to all the recreation activities on TVA land, there are many other opportunities made available through partnerships with other local, state and federal agencies which support the economic impact of the Tennessee Valley region. In fact, a 2016 study conducted by the University of Tennessee estimated an \$11.9 billion economic benefit from recreational expenditures along the Tennessee Valley's reservoir system. Since TVA manages roughly 11,000 miles of shoreline, that's a \$1M per mile benefit to the people of the valley. TVA envisioned development along its reservoirs in an effort to bring more people closer to these valuable resources that they might enjoy the many benefits that they provide.

As good stewards of the natural resources of the Valley, TVA promotes sustainable practices on all of its lands and waters. This includes working with our commercial and public operators to implement best practices, as well as developing new standards to meet the ever-changing recreation needs of the public.



## Benefits:

- Increases recreation opportunities on TVA-managed lands
- Improves and up-to-date recreation information to support TVA and regional planning efforts
- Provides greater diversity of recreation opportunities through collaboration and partnerships
- Promotes sustainable resource technologies on recreation properties (e.g. Camp-Right)
- Integrates operation activities and partnerships that support outdoor recreation opportunities to more effectively manage lands and waters under TVA's stewardship

## Objectives:

- Provide recreation opportunities (commercial and public) on TVA managed lands
- Partner with other local, state and federal agencies to provide recreation throughout the valley
- Protect the natural resources by developing sustainable practices

## Programs

The 2011 NRP contained sixteen programs that made up the Recreation Management resource area. The 2020 NRP proposes the restructuring of this area into the Recreation focus area. This new focus area includes ten programs, which combines many of the previous programs and has added new programs that describe TVA's work in commercial recreation management (campgrounds and marinas), recreation partnerships, and dispersed recreation (hunting and hiking). These new programs align the NRP more consistently with how TVA manages the recreational assets of the Tennessee Valley.

### MANAGEMENT OF RECREATION ASSETS ON DAM RESERVATIONS

TVA's dam reservations and pumped storage facility are home to public recreational assets. These assets are operated by TVA or under agreement with a partner or concessionaire. These dam reservation areas encompass approximately 3,000 acres and host approximately 1 million visitors annually.

### PUBLIC WATER ACCESS – OFF DAM RESERVATIONS

This program includes the management of recreational assets such as launching ramps and stream access sites. TVA manages 22 launching ramps and 40 stream access sites not located on a dam reservation, with many that are operated by partners.

### TENNESSEE VALLEY CAMP-RIGHT CAMPGROUND

The Tennessee Valley Camp-Right Campground (TVCRC) program is a voluntary membership program that promotes environmentally friendly practices related to energy efficiency, water conservation and natural resource management efforts in public and private campgrounds on TVA land. The program increases visibility of participating members by promoting camping opportunities at these campgrounds.



### DISPERSED RECREATION MANAGEMENT

The dispersed recreation management program includes providing recreational opportunities such as camping, bank fishing, hunting, and bird-watching on TVA public lands. Dispersed recreation areas are not supported by formal recreation facilities such as electricity, shower buildings and developed campsites.

### TRAILS MANAGEMENT

There are over 170 miles of trails on TVA public land. Many of these trails are managed in conjunction with partners and volunteer groups. Trails provide recreational opportunities to the public including walking, hiking, running, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, and other outdoor pursuits.



### RECREATION PARTNERSHIPS

TVA collaborates to enhance recreational opportunities and accessibility on public lands by partnering with and providing technical assistance to local, state, and federal entities to enhance and improve public recreation facilities.

### RECREATION CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

TVA currently manages approximately 500 agreements with commercial and public operators to provide public recreational opportunities. This includes implementation and compliance with TVA's Commercial Recreation Guidelines established in 2010.

### FLOATING CABINS

The Floating Cabin Program is focused on management of over 2,200 existing floating cabins on TVA reservoirs. Regulations will be developed in accordance with the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 (WIIN Act) which was enacted on December 16, 2016, by the United States Congress. The WIIN Act authorizes TVA to prevent the construction of new floating cabins. The regulations will address health, safety and environmental standards to guide future management.